



CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM

## Ecosystem Restoration Program

October, 2000 • Issue 3

### Inside this issue...

1

- Phase 2 Begins
- CALFED Re-affirms Commitment After Contractual Glitch

2

- Meetings, Meetings, Meetings
- Chronology of Meetings

3

- Lake, River, and Agency Teams Jump Start the Process
- July Lakeside Workgroup Meeting
- Workgroup Meetings Scheduled
- Making Progress on Scopes of Work

4

- Upper Yuba River Studies Program Website Launched

5

- Farewell, Marc Reisner
- Did you know...?

6

- For More Information

### Purpose Statement

To determine if the introduction of wild chinook salmon and steelhead trout to the Upper Yuba River watershed is biologically, environmentally, and socio-economically feasible over the long term.

# Upper Yuba River Studies Program

## PHASE TWO BEGINS

The Upper Yuba River Studies Program (UYRSP) is beginning the most important part of the process to date, the Phase 2 feasibility studies. The Workgroup and Technical Committees have been busy preparing scopes of work for the separate issue areas. Starting this fall, technical experts plan to begin gathering and interpreting data on upstream and downstream habitat, sediment, water quality, water supply and hydropower, economics, and flood risk management. The studies in Phase 2 are expected to take 18 months to complete.

Once the studies are completed, the information compiled will help the Workgroup develop an action recommendation to the CALFED Policy Group regarding the feasibility of introducing chinook salmon and steelhead trout to the Upper Yuba River. Recommendation development and submittal to CALFED represents Phase 3 of the Upper Yuba River Studies Program. ♦

## CALFED RE-AFFIRMS COMMITMENT AFTER CONTRACTUAL GLITCH

The Upper Yuba River Studies Program ran into a contractual glitch between the prime contractor and CALFED on March 24, 2000. In late May, the issue was resolved and the order was given to proceed with the studies.

In a letter to all Workgroup members, CALFED Acting Executive Director, Steve Ritchie made clear that the work delay did not represent a lack of commitment on the part of CALFED. In the letter dated June 20, 2000 Ritchie says "...I assure you... that I remain committed to your agreed upon process." Ritchie continues to express his appreciation of the process. "I commend your efforts thus far in what I understand has certainly been difficult and emotionally challenging at times. I also honor your

(Continued on page 2)



# MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS!

**Note:** Complete Workgroup meeting summaries are now available for review on the program website: [www.upperyuba.com](http://www.upperyuba.com)

In March, 2000, the Upper Yuba River Studies Program Workgroup met in Grass Valley. The focus of the meeting was to reach general agreement on the Phase 2 scopes of work, and develop a Workgroup and Technical Committee meeting schedule for the remainder of 2000. Although there were a number of specific agreements reached as a result of the meeting, the following key points persisted throughout the meeting:

- Scopes must be executed with some degree of flexibility;
- Stakeholders must be made whole by the process;
- All options, including the no-action option, must be considered equally in each study;
- Specific mitigations would be identified only for the flood risk management study, either near the end of Phase 2, the beginning of Phase 3, or as part of an analysis for the CALFED Policy Group recommendation; and

- Technical Committees need to be fully involved in establishing the criteria for baseline data for the various study scopes.

The Workgroup agreed with the Coordination Committee recommendations regarding:

- **Reliable data and task prioritization** – When appropriate, prioritize tasks and use existing raw data, and avoid interpretations or conclusions from controversial studies.
- **Study area** – Allow some flexibility when determining study area boundaries. Let the consultant, working collaboratively with the Technical Teams, provide the study area definition for each particular issue.
- **Study options** – Bracket a range of study options and articulate them early on to help clarify objectives, identify potential tools to achieve goals, determine criteria, and develop measures of success.
- **Project coordination** – Develop a project coordinator position for Phase 2 to track progress on scopes of work, among various Technical Teams, and report status to the Workgroup.

The Workgroup also provided recommendations for additions, deletions, and changes to specific scopes of work. These recommendations were received and assimilated into the scopes. ♦

## CALFED RE-AFFIRMS COMMITMENT AFTER CONTRACTUAL GLITCH

(Continued from page 1)

ability to set aside your differences to meeting together to define a program of evaluation so that CALFED can make an informed decision in the future. The process you continue to develop is of both statewide and national significance for its scope, its success in incorporating local concerns, its independence, and its creative, unbiased approach to assessing the critical issues.” ♦

# CHRONOLOGY OF MEETINGS

- **3/98** Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan recommends study plan to look at the possibility of changing Englebright Dam
- **12/98** Public Meeting, Olivehurst
- **1/99** Public Meeting, Penn Valley
- **3/9/99** Coordination Committee Meeting, conference call
- **3/16/99** Coordination Committee Meeting, Nevada City
- **4/22/99** Lake Team Meeting, Penn Valley
- **4/29/99** River Team Meeting, Nevada City
- **5/7/99** Agency Team Meeting, Folsom
- **6/18/99** Workgroup Meeting, Grass Valley
- **7/8/99** Communications Committee Meeting, Sacramento
- **9/7/99** Public Meeting, Olivehurst
- **9/8/99** Public Meeting, Rocklin
- **9/9/99** Public Meeting, Nevada City
- **9/14/99** Public Meeting, Oakland
- **9/16/99** Public Meeting, Yuba City
- **9/23/99** Communications Committee Meeting, Penn Valley
- **10/15/99** Workgroup Meeting, Grass Valley
- **11/2/99** Agency Team Meeting, Sacramento
- **11/2/99** Lake Team Meeting, Penn Valley
- **11/00** River Team Meeting, Nevada City
- **1/26/00** Technical Studies Committee Meeting, Grass Valley
- **1/27/00** Technical Studies Committee Meeting, Nevada City
- **3/2/00** Workgroup Meeting, Grass Valley
- **3/24/00-5/12/00** - Contract Delay
- **6/12/00** Lake Team Meeting, Penn Valley
- **6/14/00** Agency Team Meeting, Sacramento
- **6/23/00** River Team Meeting, Nevada City
- **7/13/00** Workgroup Meeting, Englebright Lake
- **7/21/00** Coordination Committee Meeting, Sacramento
- **7/24/00** Economics Technical Committee Meeting, Penn Valley
- **8/22/00** Sediment, Water Quality, Habitat Technical Committee Meeting, Sacramento
- **8/24/00** Economic Technical Committee Meeting, Sacramento
- **8/31/00** Lake Team Water Supply Technical Committee Meeting, Penn Valley
- **9/6/00** Flood Risk Technical Committee Meeting, Sacramento
- **9/7/00** River Team Water Supply Technical Committee Meeting, Nevada City
- **9/19/00** Coordination Committee Meeting, Nevada City
- **9/27/00** Workgroup Meeting, Nevada City

## LAKE, RIVER AND AGENCY TEAMS JUMP START THE PROCESS

**T**o regain the momentum the Workgroup had developed in late March, the Lake, River and Agency Teams met individually in mid-June. The meetings focused on clarifying the nature of the work stoppage, reiterating CALFED's commitment to the process, discussing the status of the scopes of work, evaluating and revising (where necessary), team composition, and reviewing a schedule for Phase 2 activities through the end of 2000. ♦



*Yuba River, below Englebright Dam East of Highway 20 bridge.*

## JULY LAKESIDE WORKGROUP MEETING

**T**he Workgroup met for a lakeside meeting July 13 at the Narrows picnic area along the shore of Englebright Lake. The primary goal of the meeting was to bring the Workgroup together in a less formal environment to review the status of the UYRSP since the work delay. Topics discussed included the six-week work delay, the status of the scopes of work, participant handbooks, progress report on website development, and a summary of team meetings held in June. ♦



*Team Leaders Terry, Dave and Maureen exchange information at the July 13 meeting.*



*A barbecue and boat ride hosted by Dave Munro, Lake Team Leader, followed the July Workgroup meeting.*

## WORKGROUP MEETINGS SCHEDULED

**T**he Workgroup will hold regular meetings through the end of the year. In addition to these monthly Workgroup meetings, the Agency, Lake and River Teams and individual Technical Committees will be meeting at least once a month to begin the Phase 2 studies. The public is encouraged to refer to the Upper Yuba River Studies Program website for progress updates and additional program information. ♦

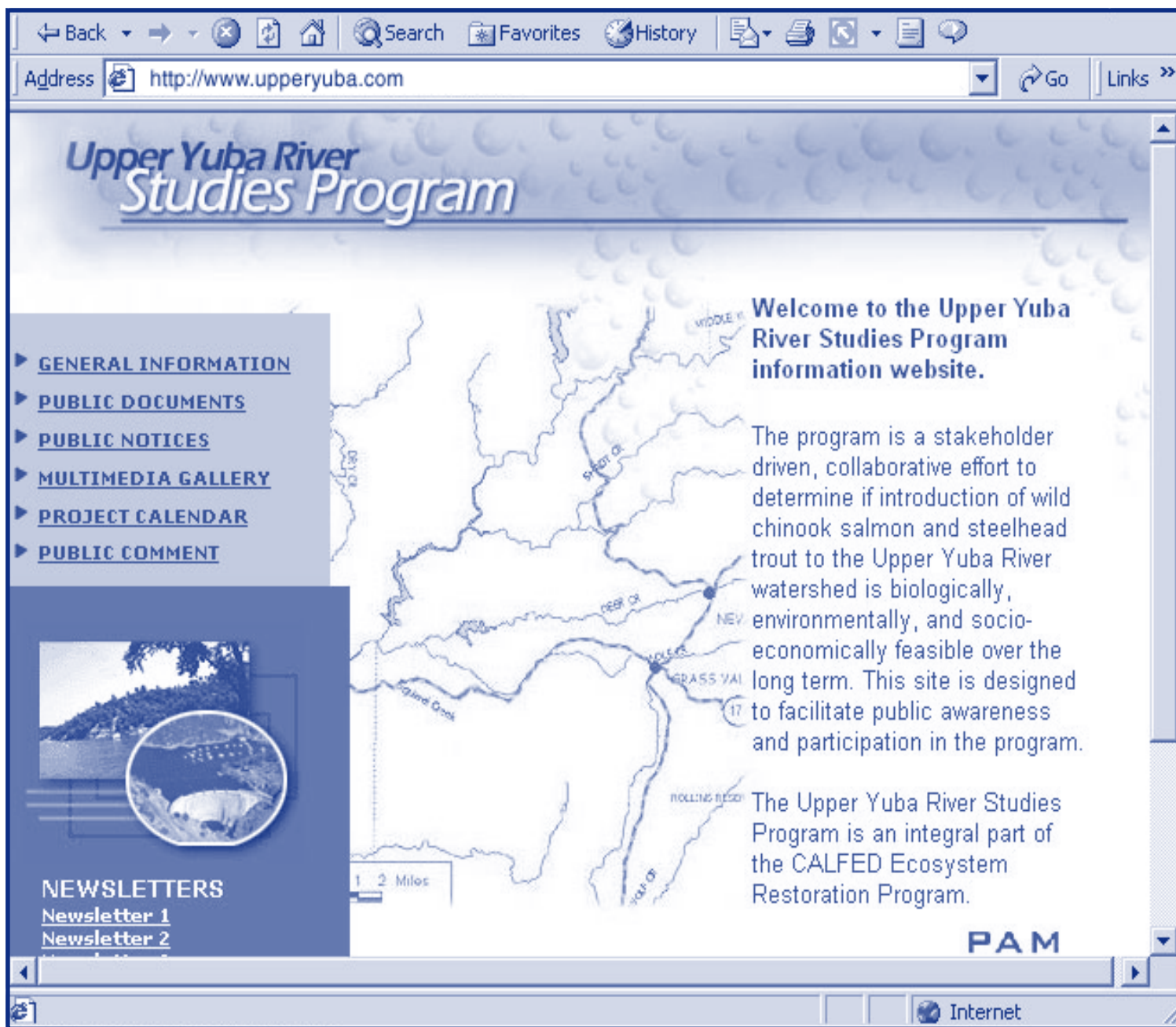
## MAKING PROGRESS ON SCOPES OF WORK

**W**orking together, Lake, River and Agency representatives to Technical Committees have prepared recommendations for sediment, flood risk management, water quality and habitat scopes of work. The Workgroup is scheduled to review and approve these recommended scopes at their September 27 meeting. Upon Workgroup approval the scopes of work will be available on the program website, [www.upperyuba.com](http://www.upperyuba.com). Check it out!

The Technical Committees continue discussions regarding the water quality scope. They are making progress toward a final recommendation for the Workgroup to review.

Additionally, the Technical Committee for economics also agree more work is needed on the economics scope of work. They are working to find innovative ways of measuring and assessing economic effects and baseline data development. They expect to complete a revised economics scope of work by November. ♦





## PROGRAM WEBSITE LAUNCHED

**T**he staff at Public Affairs Management has been busy developing a program-specific website with several innovative features and collaborative tools that set it apart from typical project websites. The Upper Yuba River Studies Program site is a communication tool designed to serve as a publicly

accessible location where anyone can review program information, learn about the process and provide comments if desired.

Visitors to the site are introduced via the homepage with the Program's Purpose Statement and Study Area Map in the background. Visitors are then able to move to areas of interest by choosing options listed to the left. Documents include public notices, program calendar and newsletters. There is also a multimedia gallery, allowing people to get a visual sense of the Study Area.

The program site is a dynamic communication tool. For example, as the program moves forward more information and feedback will be sought from the public. To facilitate this communication, the public will soon be able to click on Publiccomment.com and submit comments on specific questions posted by the team.

**The site is continually updated as the Upper Yuba River Studies Program advances... so check it often. ♦**

*Go to [www.upperyuba.com](http://www.upperyuba.com) for more information on the program.*

## FAREWELL, MARC REISNER

**M**arc Reisner, member of the River Team, who alerted authorities and environmentalists to the problems inherent in irrigating the American West in his landmark 1986 book “Cadillac Desert,” has died at age 51 of colon cancer in his Marin County home.

Environmentalist, conservationist, lecturer and writer, Reisner’s writing never made him rich, but it earned him respect and fame, and it taught, in a highly readable way, important lessons on use and misuse of water resources. Marc was instrumental in raising awareness of the damage being done to fish and wildlife. In recent years, he worked to show ways environmentalists and irriga-

tors could work together to find solutions that both protected natural resources and allowed commercial uses for water.

While Reisner’s books will serve as his “permanent monument”, the Upper Yuba River Studies Program Workgroup will remember him as a widely respected free thinker who was engaged along with them in a process to evaluate potential restoration of salmon in an important northern California stream.

Born in Minneapolis, the son of a lawyer and a scriptwriter, Reisner earned a bachelor’s degree at Earlham College in Richmond, Ind. and was recently a distinguished visiting professor at UC Davis, lecturing on the interaction of civilization and the environment. Marc Reisner is survived by his wife, Lawrie Mott, a biochemist with the Natural Resources Defense Council, and two daughters, Ruthie and Margot. ♦



*Marc Reisner photo by Ty Barbour*



*Bridgeport Covered Bridge*



*View from the bridge*

## DID YOU KNOW...

**T**he covered bridge above Englebright Dam is **the world’s longest single span wood truss covered bridge?**

Bridgeport is one of only nine covered bridges remaining in California. The bridge was designed by David I. Wood and built in 1862 by the Virginia Turnpike Company. A flood in January 1862 washed the first away. When the new bridge was completed in the summer of 1862, it was 249 feet long including a ten-foot weather wing on each end. The clear span between the abutments was 208 feet. The weather wings were removed in the 1971 restoration. The bridge is now 229 feet long and the clear span is unchanged. The bridge is both a State and National Landmark. ♦



**Yes**

, please add me to the  
Upper Yuba River Studies Program  
mailing list to receive information  
and advance notification of upcom-  
ing public meetings.

Name

Address

City / Zip

Phone

Fax

E-Mail

## Where to Find Information on the Upper Yuba River Studies Program

**CALFED website:** <http://calfed.ca.gov>  
(select Programs, then Upper  
Yuba River Studies Program)

**UYRSP website:** [www.upperyuba.com](http://www.upperyuba.com)

**Toll-free number:** 1-800-700-5752

**Public Affairs  
Management:** 1-916-658-0180

**Or clip the form to the  
left and mail to:** CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
Upper Yuba River Studies Program  
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Upper Yuba River Studies Program**  
Newsletter Issue 3

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
PERMIT NO. 1890



**Ecosystem Restoration  
Program**

**CALFED  
Bay Delta Program**

1416 Ninth Street  
Room 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
phone: (916) 657-2666  
fax: (916) 654-9780

 Printed on recycled paper.